

Comments submitted to WRCC by Kamyar Enshayan, Cedar Falls City Council member

November 6, 2009

I. Rationale for revising State's current floodplain laws

1. Flood of 2008: the massive financial costs were due to building and doing business in the flood hazard areas

2. We wish to better manage floods of the future: incorporating well-proven innovative approaches to floodplain management across the state

II. A shared vision for revised floodplain laws:

We wish to **avoid flood hazard areas** as we build our communities.

We wish to **position Iowa towards more safety and less damage** in the face of more extreme downpours

We wish to build a more resilient Iowa with **fewer and fewer people living in flood hazard areas.**

We wish to **better manage floods of the future** through sound planning and reducing flood risks to our residents and public infrastructure.

III. Specific Considerations:

1. The recommendations are basic, robust, and bare minimum; i.e. these are not wild impractical ideas; these are very doable and will significantly reduce flood damage in the future

2. The recommendations deal with the reality that current floodplains laws are inadequate as we have seen repeatedly in 1993, 1998, 2003, and 2008

3. If we continue to go with current laws, we will continue to see massive damages to Iowans and disrupted lives and economy in our state

4. Evidence from recent floods indicates that "100-year (1%) plus 1 foot" is highly inadequate, as numerous brand new homes were flooded; "500-year (0.2%) plus 1 foot" is the more logical and prudent approach especially in the face of more intense downpours Iowa is experiencing.